

Atty. Dkt. No. 200300385-1

REMARKS

This Reply is in response to the Office Action mailed on November 2, 2005. With this response, claims 1-21, 24, 26, 28-51, 53, and 54 are cancelled, thus rendering moot the rejections thereof.

I. **Rejection of claims 52 and 55 under 35 USC § 102(e)**

Claim 52 stands rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kanome (US 20030052955). Applicants traverse this rejection as applied to claim 52 as amended. Claim 52 is amended to recite "mat controller means for energizing a first node of the capacitive mat means at a time-increasing positive potential and energizing a second node of the capacitive mat at a time-increasing positive potential simultaneously". Applicants submit that Kanome does not disclose this feature and, as such does not anticipate claim 52 as amended.

Rather, Kanome discloses "[a]n AC voltage biased with a positive bias voltage from a high voltage electric source (not shown) is applied to the voltage receiving portion 36e1 via the voltage supplying brush 51. An AC voltage biased with a negative bias voltage is applied to the voltage receiving portion 36e2. It is to be noted that the voltage supplying brush 51 is preferably made of a conductive material having a volume resistivity no more than 10.^{sup.5} Ohms-cm." (Kanome, paragraph 23). Kanome does not disclose relative phase information of the AC voltages applied to the receiving portions 36e1, 36e2. Hence, Kanome does not disclose "energizing a first node of the capacitive mat means at a time-increasing positive potential and energizing a second node of the capacitive mat at a time-increasing positive potential simultaneously". Accordingly, Kanome does not anticipate claim 52 as amended. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 52 is requested.

Claim 55 depends up claim 52 and is allowable for at least the same reasons claim 52 is allowable. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

II. **Rejection of claims 22, 23, 25, and 27 under 35 USC § 103(a)**

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Claims 22, 23, 25, and 27 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kanome. Applicants traverse this basis of rejection as applied to the claims as amended. Claim 22 is amended to recite "selectively electrically energize the first node at a step-change positive potential, waiting a predetermined amount of time, and electrically energize the second node at a step-change negative potential after expiration of the predetermined amount of time." Applicants submit that Kanome does not teach "waiting a predetermined amount of time" after energizing the first node at a step-change positive potential before energizing the second node. Because Kanome does not teach or suggest this limitation, Applicants submit that amended claim 22 is patentable over Kanome. (MPEP 2143.03 "To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art."). Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 22 is therefore requested.

Claims 23, 25, and 27 depend upon claim 22 and are allowable for at least the same reasons claim 22 is allowable. Withdrawal of the rejections of these claims is therefore requested.

III. Conclusion.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

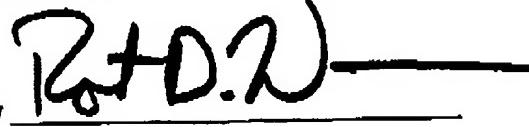
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. If any extensions of time are needed

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extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to
Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

6 JAN 2006

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By